United Nations S/2006/275

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 May 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 2 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

The Working Group adopted its terms of reference (see annex) at its third meeting on 2 May 2006.

I should be grateful if you would have this text issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **de la Sablière**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-33795 (E) 040506 040506

Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Terms of reference of the Working Group of the Security Council on children and armed conflict

I. Title

The Working Group established pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 will be known as the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

II. Composition

The Working Group should consist of all members of the Security Council.

III. Chairmanship

The Chairman of the Working Group is designated by members of the Security Council.

IV. Secretariat and interpretation

The secretariat of the Working Group is provided by the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided for all meetings of the Working Group.

V. Meetings of the Working Group

Formal meetings will be held at least every two months.

The Working Group may hold urgent and/or informal meetings at the request of the Chairman or a member of the Working Group.

Five working days notice will be given for any meeting of the Working Group, although shorter notice may be given in urgent situations.

The Working Group will meet in closed sessions. The Working Group may invite any Member of the United Nations to participate in the discussion of any question brought before the Working Group, in particular when a Member is specifically concerned. The Working Group may invite members of the Secretariat or other persons, whom it considers competent for the purpose, to supply it with appropriate expertise or information or to give it other assistance in examining matters within its competence.

VI. Mandate

The Working Group shall conduct its work in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1612 (2005).

The Working Group shall:

(a) Review the reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1612 (2005);

(b) Review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans mentioned in paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1539 (2004) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1612 (2005);

(c) Consider other relevant information presented to it.

The Working Group shall also:

(d) Make recommendations to the Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to parties to the conflict;

(e) Address requests, as appropriate, to other bodies within the United Nations system for action to support implementation of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) in accordance with their respective mandates.

The Working Group will examine information on compliance and progress in ending the recruitment and use of children and other violations being committed against children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council and in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council mentioned in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2005/72). The discussion on the latter situations shall be done in close consultation with countries concerned. The Working Group will review this arrangement one year after the adoption of its terms of reference. The consideration of any information by the Working Group shall not prejudge or imply a recommendation as to whether or not to include a situation on the agenda of the Security Council.

The recommendations of the Working Group to the Security Council do not prejudge of the Council's decisions thereon.

VII. Methods of work

Decisions will be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached on a particular issue, the Chairman should undertake such further consultations as may facilitate agreement.

Where the Working Group agrees, decision may be taken by a written silence procedure. In such cases the Chairman will circulate to all members of the Working Group the proposed decision of the Working Group, and will request members of the Working Group to indicate any objection they may have to the proposed decision within five working days (or in urgent situations, such shorter period as the Chairman shall determine). If no objection is received within such a period, the decision will be deemed adopted.

The Chairman of the Working Group will report to the Council whenever appropriate, either orally or in writing. He will submit a written report at least once a year.

The Security Council will conduct a review of the work of the Working Group against its mandate once a year.

In order to enhance the transparency of the work of the Working Group, the Chairman will brief interested Member States and the press following formal meetings of the Working Group, unless the Working Group decides otherwise. In addition, the Chairman will be authorized, after prior consultations with and approval of the Working Group, to hold press conferences or issue press releases on the Working Group's work.